European Parliament

2019-2024



Delegation for relations with Japan

MISSION REPORT

following the 40th EU-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Meeting

Delegation for relations with Japan (D-JP)

Members of the mission:

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Introduction and general context

The 40th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting (IPM) between the European Parliament and the National Diet of Japan took place in Tokyo on 31 October and 1 November 2022. Due to the pandemic travelling restrictions, the 39th IPM had taken place three years earlier in Strasbourg on 27 November 2019.

The European Parliament's delegation also visited Nagoya and Toyota City in Aichi Prefecture on 2 November. Besides holding the 40th EU-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Meeting a number of meetings were held with a variety of interlocutors from different sectors of the Japanese institutions and society: the parliament, government ministries, local authorities, civil rights organizations and businesses.

The European delegation was composed of 12 Members from five political groups and eight parliamentary committees, and chaired by Ms Christel SCHALDEMOSE, Chair of the Japan Delegation (D-JP). The EP delegation also included the Chair the Conference of Delegation Chairs, Ms Rodriguez-Pineiro, and the standing rapporteur on Japan of the International trade committee, Mr Danilo Oscar Lancini. The Japanese delegation was chaired by Mr FUNADA Hajime (House of Representatives, Liberal Democratic Party), and composed of Members of both Chambers, 27 Members from the House of Representatives and 12 Members from the House of Councillors.

The mission took place at time of great political interest in the EU/Japan relationships:

- 1) It was the first in-person bilateral meeting since 2019 and the first visit by the European Parliament since 2018. Two meetings between the Japan Delegation and the National Diet had bene held in-between a remote video meeting format in 2021 and 2022.
- 2) The Russian invasion of Ukraine has forced Japan to make important foreign policy decisions given its geopolitical position with a strategic alliance with the USA, the EU, South Korea and Australia, and for its geographic position as a neighbour of Russia (with still disputed territories), North Korea and Taiwan all areas of worrying military tensions. At the same time Japan has been strong defender for democracy, international rule of law and peaceful settlement of disputes. Without hesitation, Japan has lined up with western democracies condemning Russia's actions in violation of international rule of law, war crimes committed by Russian forces on civilians and armed forces alike. Japan has given its full political and humanitarian material support to Ukraine. Japan has also been closely watching the alarming escalations of military build-up and provocations by China on Taiwan and by the DPRK on both South Korea and Japan itself.
- 3) Since 2019 the trade relations between Japan and the EU are based on the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the largest free-trade agreement at the time of its conclusion and still the most advanced and comprehensive bilateral agreement EU has with Asia and Japan with any country. The political framework agreement the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA), concluded in 2019, is still in the process of ratifications in EU Member States. The combination of those two instruments have not only increased the economic cooperation and increased the trade volume despite the negative impacts of the pandemic, but also gave an unprecedented impetus to the political and security cooperation.

Other important agreements with Japan include 2019 EU-Japan Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure, 2021 EU-Japan Green Alliance and the launch of the EU-Japan Digital partnership in May 2022.

4) In September 2021, the EU has launched its Strategy for the Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, establishing a set of policy areas and related instruments for a more assertive and consistent presence in this vast region, with Japan as the main political and economic partner to the EU.

Summary account of meetings

The mission was successful in having an intensive and high-level program, which, in addition to the usual initial briefing delivered by the EU Head of Mission, in just three days included:

- Two separate sessions of the 40th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting with intensive discussions over a broad agenda (see <u>annex 3</u>) and the adoption of a final joint-statement (see <u>annex 4</u>).
- Two separate meetings with both the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the House of Councillors.
- Meetings with several key stakeholders in the Japanese government level:

Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Parliamentary Vice-minister of Defence, and the Parliamentary Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

- Meetings with the local authorities including Tokyo Governor, Aichi Prefecture Governor and Nagoya City Deputy Mayor.
- A working lunch, with substantial briefings and following debate, with representatives from a number of Japanese civil society organisations.
- Two field visits and related discussions on green transports and future mobility with world leading technology companies in innovation in the mobility sector.

The full programme is attached to the present report (see <u>annex 2</u>)

Russia's War against Ukraine

Russia's attack on Ukraine was condemned by both sides and support to Ukraine pledged. Russia's aggression was an attack on peace and prosperity and a shock to the world and the international order. It was mutually concluded that Japan's position on Russia's illegal aggression is very similar to the EU's position. Ukraine should restore full sovereignty of its entire territory.

Both also saw the implications and potential threats in East and Southeast Asia, if international rule of law and status quo is not respected. Russia's brutal aggression on civilians was described in the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting as a genocide. Russia was called a state supporting terrorism. Russia's threats on using nuclear weapons was condemned too and it was reminded that nuclear weapons have not been used since 77 years.

The negative impacts on world economy, and energy and food prices were recognised and the

negative impacts on lives were deeply regrettable. Diet members stressed that if we were to compromise the borders of Ukraine, then we would accept the change of status quo by force. Unfortunately, autocratic states outnumber democratic states in the world at the moment. The key question is how to build an international system, which protects international values.

The fatigue of citizens to the war, was also highlighted, but all pledged solidarity to Ukraine and unity against Russia's attack to continue.

The Japanese stressed that Japan had contributed with humanitarian aid via NGOs and given in total 1,1 billion euros to help Ukraine. Japan had received 2000 refugees from Ukraine. Japan has also provided masks against chemical weapons, vehicles and bulletproof vests. Diet Members reminded also that we already have to think about Ukraine after the war.

Members said that EU had supported Ukraine in many ways: support to its defence capabilities, political support accepting Ukraine as a candidate country to EU membership, Zelensky appearing in the European Parliament via video link and not the least that the EU had welcomed 14 million refugees and provided 1,5 billion euros of economic support to Ukraine every month.

The two Co-Chairs signed a joint statement at the end of the 40th IPM; which expressed solidarity to Ukraine and hoped for a concerted action by the relevant countries to strengthen energy and food security as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

On the energy challenge rising from the war in Ukraine it was suggested to cooperate in massive energy purchases from the international market so that Japan and the EU do not compete with each other. The role of renewables was emphasized in facing the energy shortages, while nuclear power and other short-term energy solutions might be needed for now, other solutions should compensate them later on. Energy independence is a big challenge both for Japan and EU which lack major indigenous energy resources.

Members on both sides expressed concern over the food crises. Food prizes were up and food deliveries constrained due to shipments blocked from Ukraine. The ministry of agriculture said that we must focus on long-term food-security.

Security in the Indo-Pacific

On security in East Asia Japan recognised that Indo-Pacific had become more important for the EU and hoped that the EU further increases its involvement the Indo-Pacific region and make it an irreversible commitment.

The war in Ukraine was also seen in the context of security issues in Taiwan, East and South China Seas. Recent provocations and threats by the frequent missile launches of the DPRK over Japan and China over Taiwan were condemned.

DPRK's latest ballistic missiles (Hwasong-17) can reach 15,000 km or more depending on the warhead it carries. Hypothetically, the DPRK regime can therefore threaten completely the Northern hemisphere down to parts of the South American and African continents.

China's massive military expenditure and military rise raised concerns with Diet Members. China was heading to become a military super power. MEPs shared Japan's concerns on China's increased military activities. China, described as the biggest danger to the international

community. China's cooperation with Russia was increasing the concerns.

Taiwan's critical role as a supplier of semi-conductors was a threat to world economy too, in case China attacked Taiwan. It was suggested that China might use hybrid warfare against Taiwan. Taiwan as a key supplier of semi-conductors raised concerns too, would China choose to invade Taiwan. It was called to increase capacities to produce semi-conductors in the EU and Japan instead.

Japan also shared the concerns about unpredictable Russia, as it is one of the countries sharing a border with Russia. Japan still has the unsettled issue of Soviet Union, taking advantage of Japan's weakness, invading Japan's islands in Kuril Islands during the last days of the World War II for Japan. Japan calls the still today occupied islands as part of the Northern Territories.

Also raised that we must pay attention to cyber security, disinformation, hybrid-threats and non-military type of bullying by some countries. We should consider actions on counter-propaganda too, however for this no legal framework exists yet on either side. The Japanese suggested working together in the framework of the Japanese concept Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). Overall, there is a big potential for bilateral cooperation.

The joint statement signed at the end of the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting reaffirmed shared values and international order based on the UN Charter and principles of democracy, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms and that they would continue to work for regional stability in Asia and Europe. The EU Ambassador stressed that EU is a security partner to Japan. The Parliamentary Vice Minister for Defence said that she will make an effort to increase EU-Japan cooperation.

Economic relations and research and digital cooperation

Bilateral trade has benefited from the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which came into force on 1 February 2019, and shown resilience and recovered from prepandemic trade levels to new records. The Commission will continue with impact assessments and the developments be followed on the level of product categories. Since coming into force of the EPA, Japan has encouragingly recognised a significant number of European geographical indications and registered many more of their own.

In multilateral arena the EU and Japan should cooperate facing common challenges such as in the WTO and in dialogues with middle and low income countries. Online commerce is another potential area for further regulatory and business-to-business cooperation. Common standards for electronic devices is another potential field of bilateral cooperation.

Trade Minister Nishimura said that EU and Japan are important partners. Current disturbances to the international markets distortions by China's actions and the sanctions against Russia. He also highlighted e-commerce as an important area of cooperation.

In the high national interest of the Japanese Fukushima food export controls to the EU were raised in the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting and on three other separate occasions at the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (METI), the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and the Ministry of Foreign affairs (MOFA). There is a review process already

ongoing with the next review by the European Commission in 2023. It is important to note that exports have not been stopped or banned at any point in time, and that Japan equally applies import controls, even restrictions to some agricultural products from Europe such as Belgian apples. The Japanese stressed that there is no health risk to EU citizens while the EU has maintained that import controls have never been a ban of imports to the EU.

The potential for research cooperation was raised several times. The EU and Japan are in discussions on possible association of Japan to the EU's Horizon Europe research programme. MEPs and Japanese interlocutors would very much welcome such association.

On the final day of the mission in Nagoya, the EP visitors were received by the Aichi Governor and Deputy Mayor of Nagoya. Aichi is one of the top prefectures in Japan for science and technology, academic research and industry, in particular automotive and robotics industries and the clusters of smaller companies, even micro companies, that are an important part of Japan's successful industrial enterprises. With the building of magnetic levitation monorails (Linear Chuo Shinkansen or Superconducting maglev train) doubling the Shinkansen train speeds to up to 500 km per hour, Nagoya will in the future have the best coverage to population in Japan within an hour or an hour and half from Nagoya city. Four hundred Aichi based companies are also present in the EU.

Two site visits also took place in Aichi prefecture: Toyota Motors and SkyDrive. Toyota presented its hydrogen strategy and argued why hydrogen as a source of energy would be one of the main answers to zero emission transports. Toyota Motor also made a presentation of its Woven City project near next to Mount Fuji, which aims to experiment future of personal mobility, urban living, and logistics and integrating them to the environment in a 3-dimensional city, which also has advance underground service system. Second company visit was to a start-up company Sky Drive

SkyDrive is a small start-up company, which plans to be part of revolutionizing city transport and cargo transport with its drones capable of carrying almost 100 kg of cargo today and by 2025, its passenger drone will carry pilot and two passengers in an air taxi service for the Osaka World Expo, which has already been agreed. Despite being only a four-year old start-up, it has already attracted 150 million dollars of private sector funding from Japan.

Green transition

Discussions in the IPM and in the other meetings on climate change, energy challenge and zero emission strategies focussed on climate change adaptation, energy efficiency, and Japan's hydrogen strategy. Both Japan and the EU largely lack natural resources and should cooperate instead of competing with each other, including with South Korea, in the global market such as the largest LNG buyers.

Technology development can help to cut emissions by improving energy efficiency and promoting circular economy. On the COP27 climate conference it was stressed that developed countries need to contribute to assist developing countries climate actions.

It notable that also the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Investment is highly interested in Japan's green growth. Japan and the EU shared the urgency to address the climate and the energy crises.

Japan is a country, which suffers greatly from climate change. The monsoon season is getting longer and the wind speeds and rainfalls of typhoons is on the rise. European parliament Members stressed the same phenome around the world: recent flooding and more violent storms.

Discussions with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government covered climate change, energy challenge and zero emission strategies of Tokyo. Technology development will be important alongside strategies and actions decided. Exchanges on best practises and experiences on the adoption of comprehensive strategies on both sides play an important role. Cities play a critical role and have a vast potential for increase in energy efficiency. In total 130 cities in the EU have already committed to carbon neutrality and an increasing number of Japanese cities have done the same. By 2050, Tokyo will reconstruct half of its existing buildings and 70% of newly constructed homes in energy-efficient buildings including with photovoltaic panels and other measures contributing to carbon neutrality.

Tokyo city has made a comprehensive and integrated decarbonisation strategy (zero emission strategy). Renewables play an important role. Tokyo is the first city in the world to use a capand-system, where the government sets an emissions cap to urban buildings and issues a quantity of emission allowances consistent with that cap.

Japan puts high priority on a hydrogen strategy, highlighted among others by the Tokyo Governor and Toyota Motor Corporation. Tokyo Metropolitan Government runs 98 buses on hydrogen. Tokyo Governor reported that a port in Japan has started producing green hydrogen by solar panels. Hydrogen as a source of energy in mobility is also one of Toyota's cornerstones for offering options for consumers. Many issues remain in the costs hydrogen fuel stations as well as some the cost of some components of the power trains. Japan is working to make progress on the remaining issues. Hydrogen, seen as a potential source of power for heavy-duty transport and buses as well as for any long distance mobility as it has the advantage of rapid refuelling and can be used to store excess peak energy from renewable sources when it is not needed in the grid. Members of European Parliament were generally interested in hydrogen as one possible source of power but stressing that every country has the right to decide its own energy mix, when aiming for zero carbon emissions.

Technology development will be important alongside strategies and actions decided. Exchanges on best practises and experiences on the adoption of comprehensive strategies on both sides play an important role. Energy efficiency is one of the key answers to reduce carbon emissions and to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Development of renewable solar power is promising, although there is a risk of a shortage of supplies since 90 % of photovoltaic panels production is in China.

Other notable issues

The European Union was recognised as the first one to deliver corona vaccines to Japan. Following COVID- related government expenditure governments are heavily indebted. The Japanese were concerned about rising inflation, albeit at 3 % it was still far lower than in the western democracies. The big issue for Japan is a heavy public debt making it difficult to raise interest rates significantly to curb the inflation.

On several occasions, the issue of data privacy and protection was raised. Cooperation on data governance and artificial intelligence were encouraged. In this situation, Members referred to the ongoing discussion in the European Parliament on the European Data Act, based on the European Commission proposal on the "Data Act", which is a regulation to establish a harmonized framework for industrial, non-personal data sharing in the European Union. Ensuring safety in the internet is important. In the Inter-Parliamentary Meeting it was suggested to cooperate against online violence against women. Other data and internet governance issues discussed was the Addis Ababa Internet Governance Forum last held in June 2022.

On gender issues: two Japanese CSO speakers, over the CSO lunch, presented their views and experiences of state-of-play in Japan. The level of women's participation in politics remain low. In the Lower house, only 10 % of Members are female while female Members' share is 23 % in the Upper House. Fro, candidates the proportions are higher.

On aging society, it was noted that an increasingly high percentage of the population are senior citizens. Internet should help to make their life easier.

Another potential field of EU-Japan partnership is in the development cooperation, where more should be done to coordinate actions on education programmes for example. Japanese Members highlighted Tokyo International Conference on Africa Development (TICAD) which had its eighth conference held in Tunisia in August 2022.

Conclusions and follow-up

Due to the pandemic, the previous Inter-Parliamentary Meeting had taken place in Strasbourg back in November 2019 and postponed several times since May 2020. It was overdue and a particularly timely visit and an inter-parliamentary meeting with the like-minded and strategic partner, Japan, at the turbulent times when the EU is looking for global partners in the coalition to defend international rule of law. Both pledged unwavering defence of the right for self-determination of all internationally recognised independent countries and their borders and to apply sanctions to Russia against its aggression and the war crimes it is committing in Ukraine.

Members from the European Parliament and the Diet stressed that the EU and Japan are key partners and have a critical role in the defence of rule of law and the fight against climate change. Japanese parliamentarians and Ministries echoed the message by the Members of the European Parliament and pledged to continue working together to defend shared values and keep supporting Ukraine. The National Diet has a critical role in the scrutiny of government policies and legislation thus key debates, which take place are often attended by the relevant Ministers.

Other timely discussions were on trade relations, energy challenge, climate change and zero emission awareness and strategies, regional security threats in East Asia and the pandemic.

It should be pointed out that the Japanese side is more and more keen on increasing the quality of dialogue and the potential for not only the traditional trade and research partnership, but also the political cooperation. Also thanks to the Strategic Partnership Agreement, Japan and the EU are now enjoying a fully-fledged relation with strategic common interest and values. The intensive debate that took place in the two sessions of the IPM, not to mention the other meetings, clearly reflected this upgraded relationship.

Further exchanges on climate change and zero emission strategies and cooperation in the multilateral context. Impact assessment on the EU-Japan EPA to continue by DG Trade and INTA. Given the strategic partnership and the prominent role of the Japanese parliament in the political life of the country, D-JP Chair believes that the parliamentary dialogue be increased to two IPMs a year and will follow-up this issue.

The visit re-confirmed that the Japanese counterparts are even more committed and genuinely interested in discussing a broad agenda of policy areas and find the EU as a key partner for them not only in global multilateral arena but also wished for presence and lasting commitment of the EU in East Asia. The Diet stressed that the dialogues with the European Parliament are one of the longest standing for Japan and should continue.

In 2023 Japan will Chair the G7, which is opening up a new impetus for stepping up bilateral cooperation with Japan. Under G7, discussions should take place on a joint financing scheme to redesign global health governance and preparedness to new global health concerns (pandemics) and in fight against climate change for cutting global CO2 emissions.

All of the above also re-affirmed the mutual interest to intensify and upgrade the parliamentary dialogues between the two strategic partners, as possible and appropriate, in the very near future.

List of Annexes

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- 5. List of CSOs attending the meeting on 1st November 2022

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40th EU-JAPAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY MEETING Tokyo-Nagoya 31 October - 2 November 2022 Final list of participants

Ms Christel SCALDEMOSE Chair	S&D	Denmark
Mr Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ	EPP	Czech
Mr Ivan ŠTEFANEC	EPP	Slovakia
Ms Isabel BENJUMEA BENJUMEA	EPP	Spain
Ms Tsvetelina PENKOVA	S&D	Bulgaria
Mr Jens GEIER	S&D	Germany
Ms Miapetra KUMPULA-NATRI	S&D	Finland
Ms Inma RODRÍGUEZ-PIÑERO	S&D	Spain
Mr Urmas PAET	Renew	Estonia
Ms Jutta PAULUS	Greens/EF	A Germany
Mr Nicolaus FEST	ID	Germany
Danilo Oscar LANCINI	ID	Italy

Secretariat

1 Head of Unit 1 Desk officer

1 AST

Political advisers

1 EPP

1 RENEW

1 ID

1 Greens/EFA

Interpreters

3



Delegation for relations with Japan

40th EU-JAPAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY MEETING Tokyo & Nagoya

31 October - 2 November 2022

FINAL PROGRAMME

Monday 31/10/2022

09.00 - 10.00	Meeting with the EU delegation to Japan
10.30 - 10.50	Meeting with Ms Yuriko Koike, Tokyo Governor
11.00 - 11.35	Meeting with Tokyo Metropolitan Government
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch with civil society organisations hosted by EP Chair Christel Schaldemose
13.15 - 13.55	Meeting with Mr Hiroyuki Hosoda, Speaker of the House of Representatives
14.00 - 14.30	Meeting with Mr Hidehisa Otsuji, President of the House of Councillors
15.00 - 17.30	Meeting of the 40th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting (IPM), first session
18.00 - 19.30	Dinner and reception hosted by Chair Hajime Funada, Chair of the Diet delegation

Tuesday 01/11/2022

09.00 - 09.30	Meeting with Ms ONODA Kimi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister, the Ministry of Defence
10.00 - 11.30	Meeting of 40th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting (IPM), second session

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12.00 - 13.30	Working lunch hosted by EP Chair Christel SCHALDEMOSE Conservation International, Kiko Network, WWF Japan, SDGs Japan, No Youth No Japan
15.00 – 15.30	Meeting with Mr YAMADA Kenji, State Minister for Foreign Affairs
15.45 - 16.05	Meeting with Mr NISHIMURA, Minister, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
16.30 - 17.00	Meeting with PVM TSUNODA, MAFF

Wednesday 02/11/2022

08.50 - 09.20	Meeting with Mr Hideaki Omura, Aichi Governor
09.30 - 10.30	Meeting with Nagoya city administration
12.15 – 13.40	Meeting with Mr Shigeki Terashi, Toyota Motor
15.00 - 16.30	SkyDrive test field



Delegation for relations with Japan

40th EU-JAPAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY MEETING Tokyo & Nagoya

31 October - 2 November 2022

FINAL AGENDA

Working Session 1 (Monday 31st October, 15:00~17:30)

- I. Opening
- II. Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda 1: Ukraine

- 1.1 Support for Ukraine
- 1.2 Energy Challenge

Agenda 2 : Situation around Japan and the EU

- 2.1 North East Asia (China, DPRK etc.)
- 2.2 Japan-EU Cooperation on Indo-Pacific Region

Working Session 2 (Tuesday 1st November, 10:00~11:30)

Agenda 3: Japan-EU Cooperation on Common Challenges (Climate change, digitalization, measures to counter inflation, global health and other matters of common interest)

- III. Joint Statement
- IV. Closing



Joint Statement
40th Japan-EU Interparliamentary Conference

Tokyo, 1 November 2022

Having concluded discussions in Tokyo on 31 October and 1 November 2022, the Delegations

from the National Diet of Japan and the European Parliament to the 40th Japan-EU

Interparliamentary Conference issue the following joint statement:

1. The Delegations reaffirm that even amidst mounting challenges and threats to the

international order based on the UN Charter, Japan and the EU, which share common

values and principles such as democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and fundamental

freedoms, will continue to deepen their cooperation as close partners in the international

arena, including working closely for regional stability in Asia and Europe.

2. The Delegations condemn in the strongest of terms the unprovoked, unjustifiable, and

illegal war of aggression against Ukraine by Russia, while also expressing their full

solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. Furthermore, the Delegations hope that

the relevant countries will take concerted action to strengthen energy and food security in

the face of the sharp rise in global energy and food prices stemming from Russia's invasion

of Ukraine.

3. Based on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delegations resolve to

continue to promote exchange between the people and the parliaments of Japan and the

EU, in keeping with the provisions of Article 1, paragraph 3 of the EU-Japan Strategic

Partnership Agreement (SPA).

FUNADA Hajime

Leader of the Japanese Delegation

船田元

Christel SCHALDEMOSE

Leader of the European Parliament Delegation

European Parliament

2019-2024



Delegation for relations with Japan

List of CSOs met on the civil society lunch in Tokyo on 1 November 2022

Conservation International

Kiko Network, Tokyo Office

WWF Japan, Climate & Energy and Oceans & Fisheries Division

SDGs Japan

No Youth No Japan